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2013 - July 9 - Jul 23



July Sangha e-Newsletter

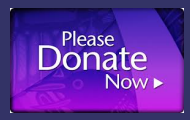
Source: The Blue Cliff Record: Hsuan Sha's Guiding & Aiding Living Beings
tr. Thomas Cleary & J.C. Cleary



Hsuan Sha, teaching the community said, " The old adepts everywhere speak of guiding and aiding living beings. Supposing they encountered three kinds of sick person, how would they guide them? With a blind person they could pick up the gavel or raise the whisk, but he wouldn't see. With a deaf person he wouldn't hear the point of words. With a mute person, if they had him speak, he wouldn't be able to speak. But how would they guide such people? If they couldn't guide these people, then the Buddha Dharma has no effect."

A monk asked Yu Men for instruction on this. Yu Men said "Bow". the monk bowed and rose. Yu Men poked at him with his staff; the monk drew back. Yun Men said. "You're not blind". Then Yu Men called him closer, when the monk approached, Yu Men said, "You're not deaf". Next Yu Men said "Do you understand?" The monk said "I don't understand." Yun Men said "you're not mute." At this the monk had an insight.

Please help support our temple, Dharma study & our programs.



Hartford Street Zen Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Donations are tax-deductible

Public Practice Schedule:

Monday
6:00 pm Zazen (seated meditation)
6:40 pm Chanting

Tuesday- Friday

Yuan Wu:
Though it fills his eyes, he doesn't see form;
Though it fills his ears, he doesn't hear sound -
Manjushri is always covering his eyes,
Avalokitesvara blocks his ears.

Upcoming Events:

Sewing Abbot's Robe with Tim Wicks - for the Mountain Seat Ceremony, Oct 13th!: Saturdays @11:30am

Dharma Talks - Rev. Myo Lahey - Saturdays: Jul 27, Aug 3,17,24,31... @10:15am.

Guest Speakers Saturdays 10:15am - July 13 - Laura Burges; **July** 20 - Rev. Tova Green; **August** 10 - Rev Shokan Jordan Thorn; **September** 14 - Ayya Santacitta of Aloka Vihara; **October** 5 - Zachary Smith, Anshi Daigi; **November** 2 - Elaine Donlin Sensei of Jodo Shinshu; **December** 14 - Beata Chapman

Full Moon Ceremony - Saturday July 27: Full Thunder Moon @11am

Sangha Council - July 20, 2013 @ 12:30pm

Founder's Memorial - Issan's Memorial is generally on the 6th of the month, & the memorial for Philip Whalen is generally on the 26th @ 6:40pm

Study Hour The Book of Serenity, we have books to share, we read together, feel free to drop in - Thursdays @7:30pm

Next Board of Directors' Meeting - Second Wednesdays of the month:
July 10 @7:30pm (you're welcome to attend/observe)

6:00 am Zazen
6:40 am Kinhin (walking meditation)
6:50 am Zazen
7:20 am Chanting
7:40 am Soji (brief temple cleaning)

6:00 pm Zazen
6:40 pm Chanting
Thursdays Study Hour 7:30pm

Saturday

6:30 am Zazen
7:10 am Chanting
7:25 am Soji
8:30 am Drop-in instruction
9:25 am Zazen
10:15 am Dharma Talk
11:00 am Refreshments/Social

HIV Meditation Sitting Group

weekly meditation group for those living with HIV, their friends, families, community supporters & anyone who wants to join us!
Thursdays & Fridays

10:30 am zazen
11:00 am garden socializing

Meditation in Recovery

(Men & Women)
weekly meditation group for men & women in recovery from addiction

Fridays, 7:30 pm - 9 pm



SFZC (& HSZC attendees) Pride Contingent June 2013

For July:

We started this month off with a great deal to be grateful for & celebrate. The fruition of decades of hard working and costly funded efforts to a huge Federal Supreme Court decision allowing some of our LGBTQI community to be closer to an equally respected & supported citizen of our country; & one by one we hope each state's queer community will soon get to join us in the equal rights of same sex marriage. There is, as a result a lot of work yet to occur to make this all happen & we are grateful for those got us here & the many folks behind the scenes who make the rights an ongoing reality.

We enjoyed beautiful sunny weather as this decision was handed down & for the (advanced estimate) over 1.2 million people (felt like we had that many!) for our Pride Weekend festivities. It does feel like societal love & acceptance to many of us. May we continue on this path holding on to the many attributes that make our minority community unique, loving; maintain who we are & not treat others or oppress as we have been in the past.

Some religions are beginning to look inside their community to find ways to better love & support their queer members. Outstanding research & work is starting within some

Women's Meditation in Recovery

(Women only)

monthly meditation group for women in recovery from addiction First Thursdays

7:15 pm - 8:45 pm

Hartford Street Zen Center is a Castro neighborhood temple & residential practice center in the Soto Zen tradition of Shunryu Suzuki Roshi established to support & engage the LGBTQI (Queer) Community and our allies.

conservative religions for LGBTQI issues to help save lives, keep biological families together & encourage love. If you have not read about the Family Acceptance Project, who is helping support this effort, please do. They have 40 years of work & are continuing to grow, working within religious community to ensure LGBTQI children grow up, happy, healthy, loved & supported.

From our Resident Practitioners: We are **still** seeking a dedicated, fellow resident practice student or Priest. Visit here to see more detail & PLEASE spread the word!

Words from our Practice Leader: Reverend Myo Lahey - Dharma Practice & the "Gay Self" Queer Dharma Vol. 1, second printing 2000

If we reflect a moment on what befalls those whom society has marginalized, we might be moved to speculate that, because we do not stand at the center of the herd, but rather have been pushed to its periphery, they are presented both with a privation and an opportunity. While they are denied the protection and warmth which surrounding herd can provide, they also have possibilities of movement, of enterprise, which those squarely in among their fellows cannot manage. The resources of the herd are meted out to them in smaller portions, but is the herd's ability to police and restrict. It will not tax our imagination to think that those who reared in the throbbing fecund heart of the herd may come to adulthood with an ingested identity more solid, and hence less yielding, than those who knew themselves to be numbered among the outlaws, even if they didn't understand at first how they came to be so classified.

Hartford Street History: Allen Balderson, HSZC Newsletter October 2007
Excerpt from his article "Marginalized"

...Don't misunderstand. I do like it when my friends ask how I am....A zazen friend reminds me that that's where our Dharma practice comes in. Whether you are the one inquiring or the person who is being

NEW! Women's Sitting group
(Women only)
Sitting followed by Dharma talk then tea and cookies. Mostly Zen.

Kicks off Tues, September 3rd: 7pm-8:30pm.

inquired about, both parties should be able to accept open-ended questions. Be open to responses without taking offense, without feeling responsible to take any further actions. It's a process of acceptance on both sides, particularly acceptance of change. We all are all trying to understand our conditions; life's alterations. Maybe I overreact because I haven't learned to embrace my own conditions as much as I think I have...

From the Garden: We the flowers, trees, and bamboo of HSZC's garden want to remind you that some of the biggest impact you can have on environmental change and human happiness is how you spend your all mighty dollar as you participate in society! The change you create within.

Take small reasonable steps in your daily routine activities to bit by bit do less damage and harm to our planet and its' inhabitants as a consumer.

When you spend money you probably have to make some compromises for affordability, but can you choose a more ethical and responsible business option for your purchase? Do you need the latest and greatest newfangled object(s)? Can you imagine each item you buy in a landfill & how long will it be there? Possibly leaving a toxic chemical mess as it breaks down. Eek it wilts our leaves just thinking about it! Don't forget to investigate how a company treats its employees, the benefits they do or do not offer their employees, pay compared to the market/cost of living as well as how it impact the planet and global climate. Please take care of the planet for all of us who are also stuck along for the ride; the bamboo has WiFi & found the following helpful sites to help you:

Shopping/Consumer/Environment:
Ethical Shopping
Ethical Consumer

Workplace:
Great Places to Work (for work environment, Benefits, Employee treatment)

Environmental:
15 of the best companies for the Planet (and link to the worst)

Ascending the Mountain:

Sewing is still marching forward each Saturday and making great progress. Walls to be painted and garden work to get us to the point of the big Mountain Seat Hartford Street ZC Ceremony & celebration in October!

As always:
Our deepest gratitude to all who are helping to move this project forward.



HSZC's garden plums 06 2013

Sangha Member Musing:

Working With Your Life Peter Goetz MFT - Tokusan

"They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself"

-Andy Warhol

Once, a few decades ago, a meditation teacher I knew talked of the importance of 'working with your life'. He said it casually, off-handedly, in the way that he said most everything. This from a guy who had been thrown out of the Navy for being gay, later becoming a junkie and a performing drag queen before doing a 180 into full spiritual practice. He knew about working with one's life, like his own.

HSZC on Facebook

At HSZC.org
check out our community events page for more!

Via **Twitter**

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I heard it then, registered it as compelling but somehow didn't make a lot of it at the time. As happened with a lot of that teacher's comments, they resonated with me years later. What does *working with your life* mean? This line or another of his will rise up for me now, for no particular reason. I guess I'm listening now.

The operative word here seems to be *with*. It suggests that we can work with the raw materials of what we've got and also that its work; its not about to happen by itself. There's effort involved. We all have life material surfacing all the time from momentary stimuli, from worries, memories, relationship *stuff*, the swirl of emotions, conundrums. There's always material manifesting and always movement. (For the rest of article, click here)

Board of Directors - Developments:

Don't forget we meet on the 10th! As usual a full dock of topics to discuss & you're welcome to attend & observe!

Ready for "the" big commitment (Marriage) & seeking a LGBTQI, Buddhist space to start your new chapter in life?



HSZC & Rev. Myo Lahey can be a part of this amazing & love filled ceremony. HSZC can house your Zen Buddhist Wedding ceremony & Rev Myo can also perform weddings! Please email hszc108@yahoo.com, call us, or the best way to discuss is to stop by during our publicly open hours.



Practice Leader, Hartford Street Zen Center (HSZC) --- Reverend Myō Lahey

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Please submit stories, reflections, personal news, artwork & photography for future newsletters to ***tetsugen.keido@yahoo.com***

May this newsletter find you well & filled with equanimity! __/|__